

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material, comprising:

mixing [[a]] titanium oxide powder particles, a solvent and a barium-containing material soluble in the solvent to prepare a titanium oxide slurry;

removing the solvent from the slurry to obtain a solvent-free mixture; and
heating the resulting solvent-free mixture so that a barium compound is present on the surfaces of the titanium oxide powder particles thereby forming a titanium oxide powder material,

wherein the amount of said barium-containing material is such that the barium content of the titanium oxide powder material is in the range of 0.001 to 0.1 mol per mol of titanium.

2 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to Claim 1, wherein the said heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

3 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to Claim 1, wherein the said heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm.

4 (Previously presented). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150°C or less.

5 (Previously presented). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150-600°C.

6 (Previously presented). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 600°C or more.

7 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate comprising

mixing titanium oxide powder particles, a solvent and a barium-containing material soluble in the solvent to prepare a titanium oxide slurry;

removing the solvent from the slurry to obtain a solvent-free mixture;

heating the resulting solvent-free mixture so that a barium compound is present on the surfaces of the titanium oxide powder particles;

mixing [[a]] particles of the resulting titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1 with a barium compound powder to form a powder mixture, and calcining the powder mixture.

8 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the barium content of the titanium oxide powder is in the range of 0.001 to 0.1 mol per mol of titanium.

9 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 5 m²/g or more.

10 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 10 m²/g or more.

11 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ said heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

12 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm.

13 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150°C or less.

14 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150-600°C.

15 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 600°C or more.

16 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate comprising providing a powder mixture of [[a]] titanium dioxide powder particles having on the surfaces thereof a barium compound ~~on its surface with~~ and a barium compound powder, and calcining the powder mixture.

17 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 16, wherein the barium content of the titanium dioxide powder particles having a barium compound on its surface is of about 0.001 to 0.1 mol per mol of titanium.

18 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 17, wherein the titanium dioxide powder has a specific surface area of about 5 m²/g or more.

19 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 18, wherein the barium compound which is on the surfaces of the titanium dioxide powder particles has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

20 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 19, wherein the barium compound which is on the surfaces of the titanium dioxide powder particles has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm and the titanium dioxide powder has a specific surface area of about 10 m²/g or more.